

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of : Attorney Docket
No.: PD111

Applicant: Pascal DELRIEU and Li DING :

Application No.: Unknown (Continuation of USAN 09/ 431,742) : GAU: Unknown

Filed: November 1, 1999 : Examiner: Unknown

For: "AGAR GEL BEAD COMPOSITION
AND METHOD"
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November 12, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee, please make the following
amendments, referring to claims 1-18 as originally filed in the parent application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 1-18 *without prejudice*.

Please ADD new claims 19-62 reading as follows:

Claim 19. (new) A method of preparing gel particles comprising:

- a) forming a hot aqueous solution of a gelling agent, the solution being gellable at a